

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03482 081152Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W

----- 040979

P R 080932Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7515

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 3482

STATE PLEASE PASS TO AMB HODGSON

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJ: ASAHI REQUEST TO INTERVIEW PRESIDENT

1. TOMOO HIROOKA, PRESIDENT OF THE ASAHI SHIMBUN, JAPAN'S LARGEST (CIRCULATION OF NINE MILLION) AND MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY NEWSPAPER, WILL VISIT U.S. IN MAY 1976 TO ATTEND 25TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE IN PHILADELPHIA. HIROOKA HAS SENT LETTER TO AMB HODGSON ASKING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ANYTIME BETWEEN MAY 1 AND MAY 9 OR BETWEEN MAY 12 AND MAY 15. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT HIROOKA WOULD PREFER ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, THOUGH PLEASED TO BE GRANTED INFORMAL AUDIENCE IF INTERVIEW NOT POSSIBLE. HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWING OTHER USG OFFICIALS AS SUBSTITUTE.

2. FYI: IN 1957 HIROOKA WAS FIRST JAPANESE NEWSMAN TO INTERVIEW KHRUSCHEV, AND IN 1970 THE FIRST TO INTERVIEW CHOU EN LAI. HE IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS ASSOCIATION.

3. ASAHI'S PREMEINECE AND HIROOKA'S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE MEDIA WORLD MAKE THIS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS JAPANESE PEOPLE WITH VIEWS ON BROAD ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES REQUEST.

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MILLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 01 SEP 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, JA, US, (HIROOKA, TOMOO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006